Approved Approved as of March 15, 2012

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MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING NO. 13-2011 Thursday, December 15, 2011

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened in regular session in the Mayor and Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 15, 2011.

PRESENT

Craig Moloney, Chair Rob Achtmeyer Jessica Reynolds

Absent: Anita Neal Powell

Joseph Hansen

Present: Jim Wasilak, Chief of Planning

Robin Ziek, Staff Liaison

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORK SESSION began at 7:00 pm. and no decisions were made.

II. COMMITTEE/ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Mary van Balgooy of Peerless Rockville briefed the Board and Staff on upcoming events. Peerless Rockville presented their third Christmas ornament featuring St. Mary's Chapel. The price of the ornament is \$21.95 for Peerless members, \$26.95 for non-Peerless members; Peerless will also have a New Year's Day brunch on Sunday, December 31st from 12:00 – 2:00 pm at the Glenview Mansion. Tickets for Peerless members \$10, non-Peerless \$15. For more information call 301-762-0096 or email www.peerlessrockville.org.

Lincoln Park Historical Foundation was not represented during this meeting.

Public Comments/Open Forum

Eileen McGuckian, Interim Director of Montgomery County Historical Society presented an update to the Commission and Staff regarding upcoming events. The Bell-Dawson house is decorated in vintage '60s Christmas and Hanukkah decorations and will be open to the public Wednesday – Sunday from 12:00 – 4:00 pm; "There's A Hat For That" hat exhibit will be on display upstairs, the Sesquicentennial Edition of the Civil War is now available; there is a new Richard Montgomery marker; the 6th Annual History Convention will take place January 21, 2012 (St. Patrick's Day) at the Agricultural History farm. This will be an all-day event for middle and

high school aged participants. Brochures and registration materials are available online at www.montgomeryhistory.org, and will center on the War of 1812.

HDC Staff Comments

Robin Ziek encouraged participation in the History Convention stating how interesting it is.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES

- 1. November 10, 2011
- 2. November 17, 2011

B. RECOMMENDATION

Convey recommendation to the Mayor and Council reflecting HDC discussion on October 20, 2011 to retain, without change, the role of the Mansion Subcommittee at the Rockville Civic Center.

Commissioner Achtmeyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Powell to approve the Content Agenda as published. The motion passed 3-0.

IV. EVALUATION OF DEMOLITION - HDC2012- 00558

Applicant: Stephen Mohn Address: 201 Upton Street

Request: Evaluation of Significance (for demolition)

Robin Ziek presented a staff report. The property is up for sale following the recent death of the owner, Mr. Mohn. There is a contractor purchaser who is interested in demolishing the property. A process is in place to bring the property to the HDC to review criteria of historic significance. The current owner of the property, Kermit Stephen Mohn, is not able to attend the meeting because he lives out of state.

Robin Ziek recommended that, based on HDC criteria, the house does not qualify for historic designation.

Several speakers offered comments about the property.

- 1. **Rita Mohn**, wife of Eric Mohn former resident of the home spoke on behalf of the family and agreed with Mrs. Ziek that the home is not an historic site.
- 2. **Margaret Hadley**, 215 Harrison Street, provided Commission and Staff with a petition signed by forty neighbors in support of historic designation.
- 3. **Don Hadley**, 215 Harrison, supported designation.
- 4. **Paul Keo**, 109 Upton Street, supported designation.
- 5. **Will Jacob**, resides on the corner of Forest and Beall streets, supported designation.
- 6. **Lynn Wagman**, 203 W. Montgomery Avenue, supported designation.
- 7. Mary van Balgooy, Peerless Rockville, supported designation.

- 8. **Steve Snyder**, 203 Upton Street, opposed designation.
- 9. Eileen McGuckian, supported designation.
- 10. Vicky McMullin, 100 N. Street, supported designation.
- 11. **Shauna Rhodes**, Eric Mohn's step-daughter and Rita Mohn's daughter, stated that Eric's character is being exploited by the Hadley's and does not support the historic designation of the property.
- 12. **Kermit Steven Mohn** sent a text message read by Robin Ziek opposing designation.

Comments from Commission

Commissioner Reynolds provided her concerns stating that both Kermit and Eric's opinions should also be considered in deciding a designation. She asks what other handicap alterations were made to the home other than the ramps.

Ms. McMullin says that doors were widened but says that Eric would not have wanted his legacy to be centered on his handicap and feels a designation based on that would be awful.

Commissioner Maloney evaluated the criteria on which historic designation would be based and the Commission discussed the issue.

Commissioner Achtmeyer made a motion to support historic designation based on Criterion I-B stating that Kermit and Evelyn Mohn's advocacy for accountability for handicapped individuals was significant and made a difference in Rockville and the County. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. She asked if it would include the rear deck and handicap ramp as significant elements and Commissioner Achtmeyer stated "yes". Vote 2-1 (Chair Moloney opposed). Chair Moloney stated that he couldn't agree that the existing alterations were historically significant. Motion passed.

V. DISCUSSION

- A. Green/Historic web page Staff is gathering comments from the HDC and will provide a draft at the next meeting.
- B. Outreach to community, calendar/schedule Staff will provide Commissioner Hansen's comments and a tentative schedule via email.
- C. Heritage Area update Staff continues to work on this.
- D. FY13 Budget Update Staff says that funds for HDC training have been proposed as well as funds for consultant fees for targeted efforts for 2012.

VI. ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Sandra Y. Driver, Commission Secretary